

## Dr. G. T. Crout

I came to Flanagan for the first time in October 1935. At that time a stop was made at the drug store to ask Ed. Crumrine about the local scene. He told me that Dr. Julius Zinn was wanting to retire, so I went to see him, rented his office on Jackson St. Dr. Zinn sold me several items in his office including his hardcoal stove. I returned to Ft. Brady at Sault Ste. Marie in the upper Peninsula of Michigan and resigned from the army effective 15 December, 1935. I returned to Flangan on a bright sunny day, 24 December and took up residence in an apartment in the house of Mrs. Mason on the west side. On that night there was a big snow storm and on Christmas morning all roads out of town were blocked. This was the beginning of the severe 1936 winter. Clarence Good graciously let me put my car in an unused garage that he had. In the spring I moved to the King house on South Main St., where I had my office. The next year the house was purchased by Peter Vissering and I had to move. In 1937, I purchased the old home of Mrs. Unzicker on North Jackson St. and had my office there. The house was sold for \$2000.00 an amount which I had to borrow. In 1935 there were no electric lights in the country. Each farm had a gravel road outlet, a great improvement at that time. Sometimes one had to travel three miles to get to a home on the section. The winter of 1935-36 was very cold and a lot of snow. There was no heavy machinery to clear road drifts, the roads were opened by WPA laborers with scoop shovels and trucks. At that time all children were delivered at home, the hospital wanted to be avoided as it was mainly regarded as a place where people went to die. A hospital room at St. James Hospital was \$6.00 per day and that included meals. We had no antibiotics, no specific drugs for typhoid, pneumonia, scarlet fever, diphtheria, gonorrhea, or tuberculosis. There was no tetanus toxoid. Diabetes was treated with three injections of insulin daily. Liver extract had just become available for treatment of pernicious anemia. I insisted on having pasteurized milk which Anton's Grocery had to order special for me. Poliomyelitis was a dread disease in late summer and early fall until we had a killing frost. Salk vaccine has stopped that plague. The childhood infectious diseases were very prevalent as we did not yet have the specific immunization injections. With the congressional resolution in preparation for war, I was ordered to duty at Ft. Sam Houston in Texas, on 10 February, 1941, for one year of duty. I was called because I was in the Reserve.

On 6 December, 1941, we left San Francisco on the S.S. President Garfield for Manila in the Philippines. The next morning (Sunday) we heard by radio that Pearl Harbor was being bombed by the Japanese. The following morning we were back in San Francisco. I was posted to Ft. Ord, California, which we left 15 May, 1942. After 27 days at sea our convoy reached Auckland, New Zealand, and a few days later sailed to Brisbane, Australia. I was in Brisbane and Townsville, Australia for three years with periods of detached service in North Australia at Milne Bay and Guna in New Guinea. I returned from Australia in November 1944 as was assigned as chief examiner for the induction station of the State of Indiana, at

Indianapolis until 15 January 1946, when I was mustered out at Ft. Attenberry, Ind. I returned to Flangan to start practice again, having attained the rank of Lt. Col. in the medical department.

By this time people were hospital oriented. Penicillin was in use, sulfa drugs had been introduced and a antihistamine had been introduced. Now drugs were rapidly introduced in the next 30 years, one of the most notable, for control of high blood pressure and reduction of strokes. Intravenous anesthesia was brought into common use, so that ether anesthesia that had been taught became obsolete practice. Women now wanted to be in the hospital for confinement and were allowed to be up and about in 24 hours or the same day, a real break with the past in practice. In 1953, I was able to buy the Bennett house on North Jackson St. for an office which I badly needed.

A new heating system, all new wiring, insulation and new windows were installed. I bought an X-Ray that I used until 1975, when a new law required that a lead lined room was required to use an X-Ray. That law put medical office X-Ray units out of business. I was not able to sell my X-Ray machine, which was far better than St. James Hospital had in 1935. The machine was given to the medical assistance program that provides equipment to hospitals in undeveloped countries in South America and Africa.

In 1973, I was in San Francisco for a period of intensive instruction in acupuncture techniques. In October 1973 I was in Denver, Colorado, and was elected as a fellow in the American Academy of Family Practice in recognition of 2000 hours of certified post graduate training. For 30 years my vacation time away from the office was spent going to medical meetings. For several years I advertised in medical journals for a man to come to Flangan and share the work load. I had only one response. A doctor and his wife came.

Their first question was "Do you have a Country Club"? With my negative answer, they had no further interest. In 1935 when I came to Flangan there were 40 doctors in Livingston County. Every town had one, two or three doctors. Today there are less than 20 doctors. On 13 September 1975, I closed my office being over burdened with patient care and joined the staff of Western Illinois University as an Associate Professor in the medical department.

In 1977 the director had decided that he no longer wanted administrative duties and wanted to revert to staff duties. I was discharged for his convenience. In May 1977, still having my house and office in Flangan, I returned to, and opened my office again for office practice, which is not config like hospital work. In the past 10 years, I have made three trips to Israel, three to England, and have been in France, Switzerland, Italy, Greece and Egypt, and numerous trip to New York City.



Elizabeth Rieken Wiechman was born May 30, 1857 in Strackholt Ostfriesland, Germany. She came to the United States with her parents, Rieka Janssen Wiechman, her mother the former Tjede Aljets, nee Hardy, in 1861.

After their marriage, they lived southwest of Flanagan, later moving one mile north of Flanagan until Mr. Hinrichs passed away on January 27, 1937. Mr. Hinrichs farmed all of his life. He was one of the substantial citizens of this community and contributed much toward the development of the fertile prairies in this locality. Mrs. Hinrichs passed away February 1, 1932. God's grace permitted them to remain married for 55 years.

Nine girls and one son was born to them.

Mrs. Lizzie Park—Adolph; Mrs. Katie Young—Chris; Mrs. Lena Decker—Henry; Mrs. Hannah Carls—Hillard; Mrs. Christena Henkel—Eillert; Mrs. Margaret Otto—George; Mrs. Marie Obert—John; Mrs. Minnie Janssen—Edward; Mrs. Tillie Harms—John; and Herman Hinrichs.

## Edward Litchfield

Litchfield, Edward, a well known banker, of Flanagan, Livingston County, IL, an able financier, and a man of strong influence in connection with the public affairs of the community, was born in Macomb, McDonough County, IL, on August 20, 1849. He is a son of John and Anna (Palmer) Litchfield, natives of England, who came to the United States in 1837, and proceeding directly to Southern Indiana, located afterwards in McDonough County, whence they moved to Marshall County in 1851. There the father died February 5, 1907, at the age of eighty-five years, the mother having passed away in the same county, when the subject of this sketch was a child. John Litchfield carried on farming extensively, being the owner of 400 acres of land. In politics he was a Democrat, and took a prominent and influential part in the public affairs of his locality, being the incumbent of several township offices, in succession, and serving as Supervisor of Bennington Township. In religious faith he and his wife were Baptists. Their family consisted of eleven children, ten of whom are still living.

Edward Litchfield was reared on his father's farm and, in early youth, attended the public schools, and the Rutland (IL) High School, afterwards entering Eureka College, where he graduated. Until he reached the age of thirty years, his occupation was that of a farmer and teacher, applying himself to the former occupation in summer and to teaching in the winter months for a period of eleven years. In 1883, he located in Livingston County and engaged in the banking business, organizing a bank under the name of E. Litchfield & Co., and also becoming interested in the lumber trade. He owns a farm in Marshall County, IL and has considerable land in Indiana, Wisconsin and Nebraska.

On June 30, 1885, Mr. Litchfield was married to Oma Trowbridge, who was born in Marshall County, IL, a daughter of Rev. Allen H. and Sarah (Stafford) Trowbridge, natives of Indiana. Mrs. Litchfield's parents settled in Marshall County in

1851, and there spent the remainder of their lives. Four children resulted from this union, namely: Earl and John, deceased; Edward T. and Hazel.

In politics, Mr. Litchfield is a Democrat, and has served twenty years as School Treasurer, and was President of the Village Board a number of years. For about eleven years he held the office of Supervisor of Nebraska Township, Livingston County. He is a member of Pontiac Lodge A.F. & A.M., and he and his wife and family are members of the Christian church.

## Lester (Larry) Strotheide

Lester (Larry) Strotheide was born 1915, the eldest son of Henry and Louise Strotheide of Highland, IL.

Leaving that area in 1931 to follow the harvest fields in the west; then coming to Flanagan in the fall of 1936 to help build the buildings on the farm where Norman Ringenberg now lives; owned at that time by the late Sam Albrecht. Then joining the G. Skinner Construction of Bloomington, IL in the building of new schools as a brick mason. Coming back to Flanagan to work as a carpenter for the late C.W. Spaniol. On December 8, 1937; marrying a daughter of the late Mr. & Mrs. Sam Eigsti; of this marriage eight children were born:

Sandra Benner	Sauderton, PA
Janet Bertsche	Atlanta, GA
Carol Schmitgall	Morton, IL
Larry Strotheide	Aurora, CO
Terry Block	Mt. Holly, NJ
Paul Strotheide	Van Nys, CA
Randall Strotheide	Bluffton, OH

There are 16 grandchildren in the family.

In 1941 joined the Hal Opperman Builders in the construction of the Flanagan High School; leaving there to work for different contractors in the construction of Great Lakes Naval Training Station; and help with the Chrysler plant Chicago. Leaving there to build different Army Camps.

In 1946 had a roofing-siding company in Streator.

In 1948 started general contracting in Flanagan, IL. Started remodeling houses as few new houses were built. Wood corn cribs were then being built and we built cribs all around the country as far out as Ottawa, Kankakee, El Paso and Fairbury, IL.

Then started building large buildings such as the following: Farmers Elevator storage building, Wheeler Electronic Service, Bartley Grocery, Windtown Parish House, Waldo Mennonite Church Addition, Flanagan Mennonite Church Addition, St. Joseph Catholic Church, American Legion Building, Flanagan Telephone Co., Graymont Telephone Co., Ransom Telephone Co., Gridley Telephone Co., Rutland Post Office, Towanda Post Office, Downs Post Office, Flanagan State Bank, Gridley State Bank, Flanagan Implement, Meadows Mennonite Home and remodeling many more.

All through this time we were in the building and remodeling of homes and building in Flanagan, Gridley, El Paso, Roanoke, Toluca, Wenona, Streator, Kearnan, Ransom, Long Point, Cornell and Pontiac, IL, and many farm homes as a total of new and remodeled units of 463. In June 1979

## **John Albrecht**

John Albrecht 1833-1900

As a two year old in 1836 he came to America with his grandparents, parents, 23 relatives in all. About April 20 they set sail from Port Bremen, Germany and landed in New York about July 1. They had friends in Illinois at Hennepin, they set out for there. They went the water route up the Hudson River through the Erie Canal into the Great Lakes landing at Fort Dearborn, 'Chicago', so from there they hired an ox team and wagon to haul their trunks and possessions, and everybody walked. From New York to Hennepin it is said to have taken a little over 3 weeks. In the fall of 1861 he and his wife, Anna, who were of Mennonite faith knowing there was better land and Mennonite people in Livingston County decided to come here. He purchased 160 acres of land in Waldo township Sec. 3 from three land speculators in New York through an agent. The next year a joining 160 was added. Tweleve farms were added in all. That fall they hauled limestone rock from Ocoya and built a large bank barn. A few years later he organized a cattle and hog drive to Chicago. It was never tried again. At one time an inter-urban train was surveyed, planned, and staked to go from Flanagan to Gridley, but never built. It would have gone through the Albrecht land.

John, a big strong 6 ft. 2 in. man, was the father of 14 children. Six sons were from his first wife, Anna. Joe and Ben were farmers, 4 died as young men of consumption or T.B. Joe built perhaps the largest house in the area, was the father of John W. donor of \$8,000,000 worth of farm land for health services or home for the aged near Flanagan in the future. Ben who lived in Nebraska and Flanagan, was the father of Alvin and Mabel and grandfather of Jerome and Gaylord of Flanagan. August was the father of Agnes wife of Chris Gunden.

John's second wife, Barbara, gave him 8 more children: Susan the mother of the Ingolds of Flanagan. Peter the father of Dan and Lois, Mrs. Richard S. Zehr, of Flanagan. He helped construct and was the maintenance engineer of the light plant at Ohio, Illinois for many years, and then was head man and maintained the first lighting system in Flanagan. He also was Mr. Fix-It of the telephone system in the local area. Lena was the mother of Arthur Guth and Clara Slagel and grandmother of Ronald and Robert Guth of Flanagan. Sam had four sons: Wilbur, Glendon, Marvin and Dean. He was a breeder of Percheron horses and pure bred Jersey cattle. He was a member of the board of directors of Mennonite Hospital, chairman of the building committee for the first addition to Mennonite Hospital in 1931, a member of the board of directors of Flanagan High School when Unit 4 was formed and served on the building committee of the high school. He sold and erected steel windmills, he built the first silo and owned the first silo filling equipment in the area. He hauled the first load of livestock to Peoria from Flanagan area 1923 Model T Ford. Lydia was musically inclined and an excellent singer. She was the wife of Enos Gable, livestock dealer, owner and driver of race horses over a large area of central Illinois and Chicago. In 1924 he and Sam Albrecht went to Tennessee and purchased 3 carloads of Jersey cattle and a carload

of mules which they later sold at auction. Anna Sutter was the mother of Aldine Meyer of Iowa. Dr. William had one daughter, Barbara, who owns land in Waldo Township. He was the head of the Department of Soils at the University of Missouri. Dan, the father of Jack and Wilma, was an expert pistol and rifle marksman and was a technical engineer in W.W. I.

## **William Johann Hinrichs Folkerts**

William Johann Hinrichs Folkerts, Born—November 28, 1815 at Weeme Oefriesland Germany, died—August 11, 1892—buried at Windtown. Was first married to a Eves girl. To that union was born one child—John Janssen Folkerts, born May 18, 1848 at Remels East Firesland, Germany, died—November 29, 1915. Buried—Mt. Zion Cemetery. Married Wilhelmina nee Bumke—June 25, 1877. Williams first wife died so he remarries a second time to—Gretje Catherine Eves. To this union was born one child, Julius Johnson Folkerts. Born, December 25, 1853, died October 25, 1920, buried Minonk cemetery. Married Almuth Eden—December 25, 1879. Williams second wife now dies so he marries for a third time to Leonore Katherien Bockelman. To this union was born four children. William Alrich—married Hilda M. Habben. Carl Janssen Folkerts—married Anna Doorn. Weert Julius Folkerts—married Gepka Monk. Henry Folkerts. William and Hilda's family is—John—married Bertha Damm. Reemer E.—married Lydia L. Honig. Lena Margaretha never married. George Christoph—married Mathelda Schuette. Carl J.—married Amelia ?. William Alrich—married Hattie ?. The elder William was a tailor 3 years in the German Army. John and Bertha's family are Lena—married Ted Beltz. Frieda—married Clifford Beltz. Remmer and Lydia's family are Verena—married Ralph Whitney, their kids are Rosetta, Carol, John and Mark. George and Mathelda's family are Ruth—married Harold Hesterberg. Gertrude—married Lester Prellitz. George Jr.—married Denise Millare. Ruth and Harold's family are Larry. Gertrude and Lester's family are Gary—married Debbie Yockem, Rebecca, Peggy and Jane. George Jr. and Denise's children are Merridl Ann and Evon William. Carl J. and Amelia's family are Leonard—married Deloris ?. They have four children. William and Hattie's family are Wessel—married and divorced LaRene ? and remarried Esther ?. Clarence—married Helen ?. Ina—married Raymond Luebe. Wessel and Esther have five children. Clarence and Helen have five children. Ina and Raymond have five children.

Folkerts, John Ferdinand. John Janssen Folkerts and Wilhemina nee Bumke had the following children—John Ferdinand and Christena, and two boys deceased. John F. married Etta C. Eden, they had the following children—John Jr., deceased as a baby, Anna—married Chris Weichman, Minnie—married Adolph Park, Ed—married Helen Meyers, Christina—married Arthur Frerichs, Loretta—married Edward Ruebbens, John Jr.—married Dorene Franzen.